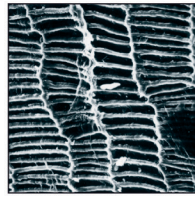
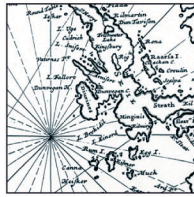
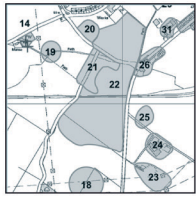


BROP11



# BAKEWELL ROAD, ORTON SOUTHGATE PETERBOROUGH PHASE A

*Watching brief*

*for CgMs*

*11/00068/FUL*

*September 2011*



**HEADLAND**  
ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd





BAKEWELL ROAD, ORTON SOUTHGATE  
PETERBOROUGH  
PHASE A

*Watching brief*

*for CgMs*

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*September 2011*

HA Job no.: BROP11

NGR: 513935, 294781

Parish: Orton

Council: Peterborough

OASIS ref.: headland1-109559

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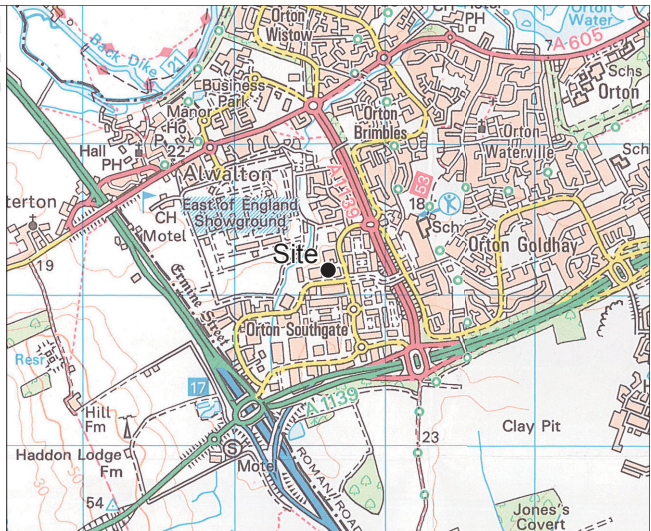
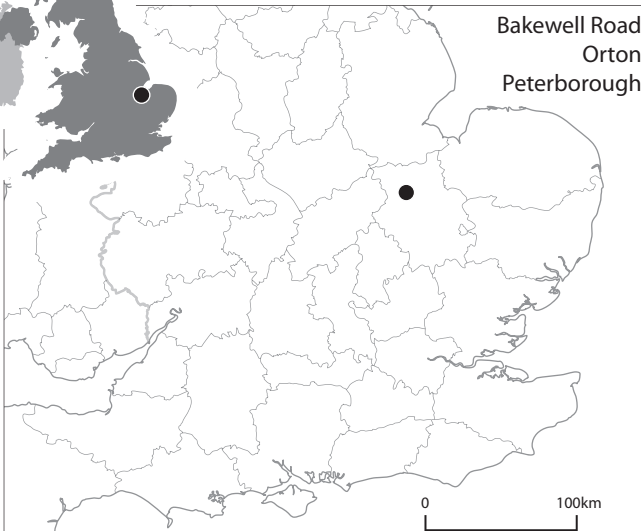
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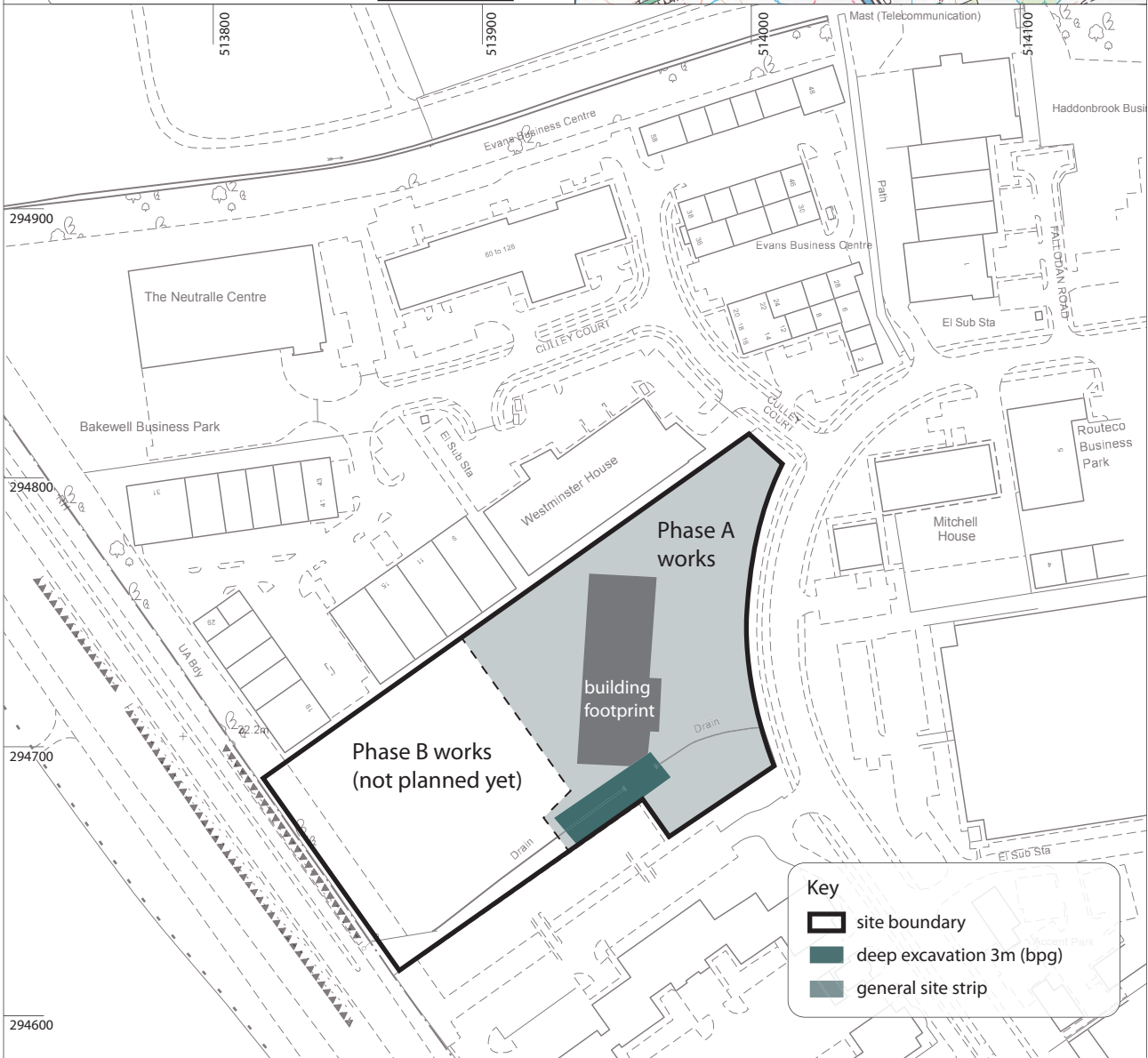


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Scale 1:2,500 @ A4



0 100m



**Illus 1**  
Site location and plan



# BAKEWELL ROAD, ORTON SOUTHGATE PETERBOROUGH PHASE A

## Watching brief

*Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted a watching brief on a development area (DA) on Phase A of land adjacent to Pegasus, Bakewell Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough, in order to satisfy a planning condition placed by Peterborough City Council. The work was commissioned by CgMs and the watching brief resulted in no significant sub-surface archaeological remains being discovered.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Planning background

- 1.1.1. Headland Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Phase A of a development area (DA) on land adjacent to Pegasus, Bakewell Road, Orton Southgate in Peterborough.
- 1.1.2. As part of the planning process, the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) identified the DA (which is to comprise the construction of two office buildings with associated car parking) as having archaeological potential. This potential had been indicated via reference to anomalies on aerial photographs and from previous archaeological investigations.
- 1.1.3. On the basis of the AA's advice, the LPA required an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during groundworks undertaken within the DA. This mitigation response was to ensure the identification and recording of archaeological remains prior to their removal, and to satisfactorily discharge the condition attached to planning permission (11/00068/FUL).
- 1.1.4. The fieldwork took place between 13th June and 8th August 2011 and this report outlines the results.

### 1.2 Site location and geology

- 1.2.1. The DA lies adjacent to the A1 Great North Road within an industrial estate in the area of Orton Southgate (site centre 513935, 294781). The DA is bounded by Bakewell Road to the east, the A1 to the west, and by industrial units to the north and south.
- 1.2.2. The geology of the area comprises Oxford Clay Formation which is part of the Ancholme Group. This is characterised by clay overlying mudstone (British Geological Survey Website). The DA and the surrounding landscape is generally flat.

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1. The DA lies within an area which was identified as an area of archaeological potential. The Peterborough City Historic Environmental Record (HER) contains records which relate to previous excavation which have taken place in the nearby East of England Showground in 1999. These investigations revealed ring ditches which are a monument type that date from the late Neolithic to Bronze Age periods. Similar monuments have also been identified within the vicinity of the DA through aerial photography (CgMs 2011).
- 1.3.2. The A1 Great North Road, following the route of the Roman road Ermine Street, is adjacent to the DA. The HER contains several records relating to



**Illus 2**  
Stripping the site

2

known activity which dates to the Roman period within, or immediately surrounding, the DA. (CgMs 2011).

- 1.3.3. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2000 prior to the construction of industrial units immediately to the north of the DA revealed remnants of furrows; part of a well defined system of ridge and furrow of medieval open fields (CgMs 2011).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Objectives

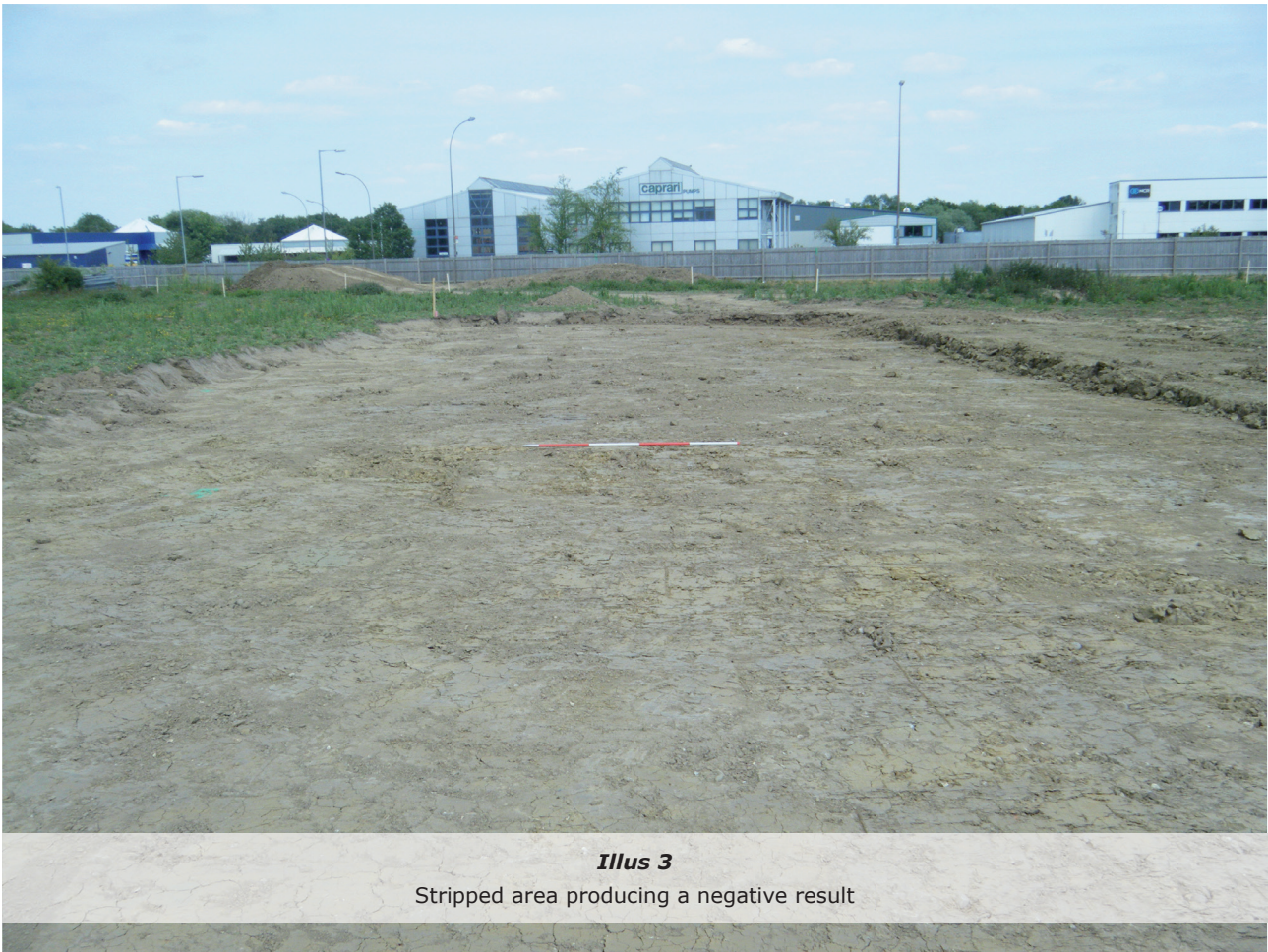
2.1.1. The objectives of the watching brief were:

- to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains within the site;
- to produce a base plan of all archaeological features exposed;

- to investigate and record exposed archaeological features/deposits in order to clarify both their date, character and significance, and to provide a clear understanding of their chronology;
- to ensure that any artefactual evidence was recorded, assessed and analysed to an acceptable standard; and
- to make available the results of the investigation.

2.1.2. Also, the specific objectives of the project were to establish whether archaeological remains were present, to record them, and to determine their significance with a view to addressing the following;

- Was there any evidence for Prehistoric or later occupation activity?
- If so, at what date did it commence, what was its character, how did it develop and what, if any, association did it have with any previously identified archaeological remains in the vicinity?
- How did the archaeological evidence fit with previous recorded archaeological evidence and the wider setting of the landscape? (CgMs 2011)



**Illus 3**

Stripped area producing a negative result

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1. An archaeologist was present on site to supervise all groundworks undertaken within the DA. A 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or significant archaeological deposits were encountered. Exposed sections were cleaned and checked for archaeological deposits.

## 2.3 Recording

2.3.1. All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists. A full photographic record including colour slide and black and white print photographs was taken, supplemented with digital photography. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

## 3. RESULTS

3.1. The majority of the groundworks within the DA revealed little or no topsoil to be present. Only

re-deposited clay, presumably from previous work on and around the site (in the modern period), was present. This mixed clay contained sherds of broken field drain and plastic in places and overlay clean geological yellow clay. Cut into the geological clay, field drains were present close to the surface at a depth of 0.05–0.10m.

3.2. From a pre-condition survey of the site, only an area in the north corner of the site suggested a presence of non-disturbed ground which was confirmed during the watching brief. Here, a thin layer of topsoil to a depth of 0.10m was revealed. However, this was isolated to a very small area, and a lack of topsoil was observed throughout the rest of Phase A.

3.3. No significant archaeological features were observed throughout the duration of the groundworks.

## 4. DISCUSSION

4.1. The results of the watching brief suggest that the DA was previously stripped of topsoil (in the modern period). The exposure of field drains close



**Illus 4**

Showing broken field drain close to surface of site

4

to the surface, as well as remnants of broken drains being present in the re-deposited clay, suggest that the level of which the field drains were placed had previously been exposed. This exposure could have taken place during the development of industrial units to the north and south of the site and afterwards backfilled to leave a covering of the re-deposited clay over the DA.

- 4.2. Evidence of Prehistoric and Roman occupation was known in the vicinity of the DA which lies immediately adjacent to the line of a former Roman Road (Ermine Street, Section 1.3.2). However, whether due to the site being previously disturbed or a genuine paucity of archaeological remains, no sub-surface remains of these dates, or any period, were revealed.

## 5. REFERENCES

### 5.1 Bibliography

CgMs, 2011, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief Land adjacent to Pegasus, Bakewell Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough*, CgMs Consulting.

### 5.2 Websites

Open Geoscience – British Geological Survey Website  
<[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)> Accessed: 25 May 2011.

## 6. APPENDICES

### 6.1 Photographic register

<b>Photo no.</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Description</b>
001	SW	Area stripped of building 1 (13/06)
002	SE	Area stripped of building 1 (13/06) with compound
003	W	General site shots (conditions)
004	SE	General site shots (conditions)
005	NE	General site shots (conditions)
006	SE	Working shot
007	E	North end of building 1 stripped
008	NNE	Area stripped at South end of building 1 before back fill to protect
009	NW	Working shot
010	S	Removing the bund
011	SW	Removing the bund
012	N	Test hole to find drain
013	SE	Working shot - pipe trench
014	SW	Working shot of strip
015	W	Overburden of car park being stripped
016	E	Entrance working shot
017	NE	Entrance working shot
018	N	Footprint strip
019	E	Footprint strip
020	E	Footprint strip
021	E	Footprint strip
022	/	Footprint strip
023	N	Working on road
024	/	Dog shaped' glacial clay
025	N	Footprint strip
026	NW	Footprint strip
027	NE	Working shot of dumper
028	E	Field drain in section
029	E	Field drain in section
030	E	Field drain in section
031	E	Field drain in section
032	NE	Field drain in section
033	NE	Field drain in section
034	NE	Field drain in section (section)
035	/	Excavation of rain water collector pit
036	/	View of ditch fill within pit, modern fill



**Photo no. Direction Description**

037	/	Section of rain pit showing ground build up over natural
038	/	Ditch fill
039	/	Ditch fill
040	/	Ditch fill
041	/	Machine chaos - rescue of dumper
042	/	Deep cut section through natural (sea bed, shell layers)
043	/	Deep cut section through natural (sea bed, shell layers)
044	/	Deep cut section through natural (sea bed, shell layers)
045	/	Deep cut section through natural (sea bed, shell layers)
046	/	Deep cut section through natural (sea bed, shell layers)
047	/	ID Shot
48	W	East facing section of strip
49	S	Shot of are stripped before my arrival
50	E	Intrusive modern feature cutting land drain
51	S	General shot of strip
52	NW	Working shot towards NE corner showing made ground
53	SE	NW facing section showing deeper made ground in NE corner
54	NNW	W. side of strip with spoilheap (to be moved in background)
55	WNW	Strip at N end of site
56	N	S facing section at N. edge of strip, shows deeper top and sub soils
57	ESE	Strip at N end of site
58	N	N-S land drain to N of spoilheap
59	S	NE corner of site and rest of site complete





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